

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the City of Pittsfield. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2003.

Residents of the City of Pittsfield

Characteristics of Admissions

In FY 2003, there were 115,896 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts; 1.6% (1,909) of these admissions reside in the City of Pittsfield. 1.3% (26) of admissions from the City of Pittsfield were under 18 years of age.

Please note that these statistics represent only admissions, and can represent a figure larger than the actual number of individuals. In FY 2003, admissions to all residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment services from the City of Pittsfield reported the following characteristics:

- 64.2% (1,227) were male and 35.7% (682) were female.
- 54.27% (1,036) were between the ages of 21-39.
- 86.5% (1,653) were white non-Latino, 6.8% (131) were black non-Latino, 3.5% (67) were Latino, and 3% (58) were other racial categories.
- 55.9% (1,068) were never married, 12.9% (247) were married, and 31.1% (594) reported not to be married now.
- 23.3% (446) had less than high school education, 53.2% (1,017) completed high school, and 23.3% (446) had more than high school education.
- 24.7% (473) were employed.
- 11.5% (220) were homeless.
- 41.9% (801) had prior mental health treatment.

Primary Substance of Use

At admission clients identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems. Table 1 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the City of Pittsfield.

Table 1					
Primary Drug by District and State FY 2003					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
City	60%	13%	8%	3%	11%
State	43%	38%	6%	4%	4%

Substances Used in Past Year

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as ‘polydrug’ or ‘polysubstance’ use.

Table 2 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, as well as the prevalence of injection drug users (IDU's), individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 2 Number of admissions Reporting Substance Used: FY 1995 – FY 2003							
City of Pittsfield							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '96	1,187	1,042	473	201	359	96	67
FY '97	1,260	1,101	435	252	319	135	82
FY '98	1,853	1,571	687	329	512	198	103
FY '99	1,862	1,638	747	417	588	254	158
FY '00	1,909	1,650	803	428	546	309	204
FY '01	1,822	1,561	748	389	507	305	168
FY '02	1,936	1,655	847	502	619	400	177
FY '03	1,909	1,602	745	478	637	424	191

Heroin and Injection Drug Use

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the City of Pittsfield and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV.

